

An overview of the last few weeks

First I wrote a 12 page script. In my tutorial with Simon and Renee, I showed them a badly written synopsis of that script. Because my stories seem to deal with lonely non-goal driven protagonists, they suggested me to watch films with a passive protagonist to look in what way these stories use a passive main character. Simon also suggested me to read some screenplay writing books. At the moment I'm reading *The Screenwriter's Workbook* by Syd Field and a Dutch book called *Writing for Film, Theater and Television*, I also have Laura Seger's book *What Makes a Good Script Great* lying on my desk. Reading the first two books gave me a better insight in storytelling, in script writing, in goal driven narrative, in characters etc. But it also became clear to me, that with my qualities this is not something that you can learn in two or three months. Or maybe it is something I will never learn. I always thought I would write my own films, that it would be the only way, now I take some steps back and realise that maybe I'm not good enough, or at least I won't learn to write proper drama in three months.

Barend thus responded quite negative towards my 12 page script. In a conversation he nuanced it and I understand what is lacking. I know there is not a clear goal of my main character, I know my characters are flat and I know that this makes the dialogue annoying. When with help of the screenplay

books I tried to write a goal, a biography for the characters, obstacles etc. but it felt not convincing. It felt as if I was just writing anything that came to mind and I also felt I didn't want to know what the parents of my main characters did for a living.

So what's next? Maybe I am not as interested in making standard fiction as I thought I was. When I think back about my previous films, also the ones I made before this course, there was only dialogue in the last one I made. Maybe I will be interested in standard fiction, but am I just not ready at the moment for it. When I worked on sets of filmacademy graduation films I thought this is how my graduation film is going to be, at the moment I didn't realised that the screenplays of these films were written by someone who followed a four year course in screenwriting.

Two weeks ago I had a tutorial with Liz, because since I bought the 5D I've been making a lot of photographs and Liz was very enthusiastic about my photo's. She said: 'I still think we should make a documentary photographer/filmmaker out of you.' Of course her enthusiasm and support was flattering and in photography I am mostly interested in shooting non-fiction. But in film I do think I like narrative, but I don't know yet if this is shooting non-fiction and creating a narrative out of this or making small, thin narratives. Lately

I re-watched *Le Ballon Rouge*, which is very cleverly made and could be an interesting format for me.

This week I watched a documentary shot on a 5D, about a Dutch rising musician and I saw how beautiful images and story came together. In one shot I saw the main character as if he was the only one in the room. So I got the idea to make an ego documentary. Because when writing the biographies from the screenwriting book assessments I realised I am not good in diving into someone else his skin. I thought if I always write these characters as alter-ego's of myself why not make something about myself. I really thought I had reached an epiphany, that this would be the ultimate format for me, that now I could make beautiful shots and embed my own experiences in a story. The next day the first doubts rose to the surface. I realised that if I want to make an ego-doc it still has to have a proper narrative. I wondered how will I be able to film myself? And I thought that maybe this is another form of escapism from the real questions I need to answer?

I feel I've been busy for weeks in searching for my form, for my narrative, what I want most, to which advices I should listen and which I should neglect, that my mind is totally drained from energy. I just don't know anymore, feel that I haven't made progress the last month, even if I know this is progress to. I don't want to choose a form of escapism, yet I

can't come up with a proper story. My creativity is only present in the sense of seeing images and not in thinking of stories, but if I would choose for a project of merely images, I think I'd be choosing not to jump from the proverbial cliff. I know I have to untie this knot in my head, but I don't know where to start.

P.S. Re-writing this from paper, already gives me a better insight in the problems and my interests, but still I feel quite lost in what to do next and hopefully you can give me so guidance.